



1712

Docket No.: DA-052-US-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Fouad Mehawej et al.  
Serial No.: 10/050,375  
Filed: January 15, 2002  
Title: SUPERABSORBENT THERMOPLASTIC COMPOSITION AND  
ARTICLE INCLUDING SAME

Art Unit: 1712  
Examiner:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
**BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned application please find:

- 1) Preliminary Amendment (10 pages);
- 2) Tab 1, Clean Version of the Amended Paragraphs of the Specification (4 pages), Marked-Up Version of the Amended Paragraphs of the Specification (4 pages);
- 3) Tab 2, Clean Version of Amended/Substitute Page 2 (1 page), Marked-Up Version of Amended/Substitute Page 2 (1 page);
- 4) Tab 3, Clean Version of Amended/Substitute Page 3 (1 page), Marked-Up Version of Amended/Substitute Page 3 (1 pages);
- 5) Tab 4, Clean Version of Amended/Substitute Page 13 (1 page), Marked-Up Version of Amended/Substitute Page 13 (1 page);
- 6) Tab 5, Clean Version of the Amended and New Claims (4 pages), Marked-Up Version of the Amended and New Claims (4 pages);
- 7) Tab 6, Particle Distribution Analysis from Sumitomo Seika Chemical Co., Ltd.(Redacted) (1 page);
- 8) Tab 7, Polybutylene Base Polymers product literature (18 pages); and
- 9) Return Receipt postcard.

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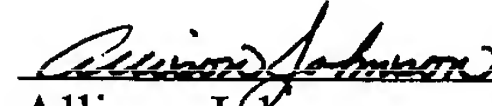
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Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 3, 2003

  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to substantive examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows.

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows.

Substitute the paragraph at page 1, lines 16-29 with the following paragraph.

In one aspect, the invention features a thermoplastic composition that includes from about 1 % by weight to 25 % by weight block copolymer having the formula (A-B)<sub>x</sub> or A-B-A where the A block comprises polyvinylarene, the B block comprises poly(monoalkenyl), and x is an integer of at least one, from about 45 % by weight to about 75 % by weight superabsorbent polymer particles that include polyacrylate and having a median particle diameter of from 20  $\mu$ m to 30  $\mu$ m, and from about 15 % by weight to about 40 % by weight plasticizing oil. In one embodiment, the thermoplastic composition further includes surfactant. In another embodiment, the thermoplastic composition further includes from about 1 % by weight to about 5 % by weight surfactant. In some embodiments, the thermoplastic composition includes from 60 % by weight to about 75 % by weight the superabsorbent polymer. In one embodiment, the block copolymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene,

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